Indian Airlines :

A—300-B2/B4	11	
B—747	23	52
A—320	18	

Vayudoot :

HS—748	8	17
Dornier-228	8	
F—27	1	

(on lease from Indian Airlines).

(f) Out of the 15 routes operated by Air India, there has been a loss only on two freighter routes, one of which has been discontinued from 28th March, 1992. In May, 1992, out of 134 services operated by Indian Airlines, only 22 services did not meet the cash cost of operation; the other 112 services earned surplus over cash costs.

All routes operated by Vayudoot are incurring losses.

Transactions undertaken by STC

1901. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the operations of the State Trading Corporation have come down drastically following the decanalisation and other trade reforms;

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government to reduce the overheads of the State Trading Corporation commensurate with its present activities; and

(c) what are the details of the transactions now undertaken by the State Trading Corporation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Total turnover of STC during 1991-92 is Rs. 1315 crores compared to Rs. 1756 crores during 1990-91, the decline being mainly due to drop in canalised imports.

(b) In the context of reduced turnover due to decanalisation, STC has taken following measures for reducing its overheads:—

—Redeployment of surplus manpower to utilise them in the new areas of business.

—Retirement of 353 employees under VRS.

—Closure of a few foreign offices during the last two years.

—Other economy measures such as reduction in staff cars, surrender of telephone lines and office space.

(c) Consequent upon decanalisation of certain import and export items, STC has reformulated its corporate objectives with a view to becoming international trading house functioning in a competitive environment principally based on non-canalised trade with the thrust aiming at the following:—

Achieving a progressive growth of non-canalised exports.

—CT against government purchases.

—Import & distribution of canalised items like edible oils, fatty acids as per the Govt. formulaed policy.

—Purchase and sale of imported cars as per the Government policy.

—Handling of rubber operations on Govt. account and its release in the domestic market|export under Market Intervention operations.

Setting up of free port in Goa

1902. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have come across a mixed reaction for setting up of free port in Goa; and

(b) by when Government propose to set up free port in Goa as announced earlier?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) The Report submitted by the Free Port Advisory Committee in March, 1992 was circulated for eliciting views on the recommendations

contained thereon. The responses received have commented upon the proposal from different perspectives and would require detailed scrutiny. It would, therefore, not be possible to indicate a precise time frame in which a decision in this regard could be taken.

New policy on transferable advance Licence

1903. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Willl the Minister of COMMERCE be plesed to state:

(a) whether Government have recently, announced its new policy on transferable advance licence covering engineering, leather and textile products; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the new policy and its impact on the export of these commodities?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Yes, Sir. The facility of transferable advance licence was introduced in the Import-Export Policy 1990-93 and it covered Engineering, Textiles and leather export products for which input output norms were prescribed and published. However, in the Export Import Policy 1992-97, this facility has been extended to all categories of export products.

(b) The provision of transferability of advance licences is covered under Para 67 of Chapter VII of Export-Import Policy 1992-97. Copy of the Export. Import Policy 1992-97 is available in the Parliament Library. As distinct from the new provision, the previous Policy confined the transferability of licences for the three sectors, leather, chemicals and engineering on post-export basis. Besides, the materials imported under the advance licensing regime for any item could be transferred on post-export basis only after getting the permission from the concerned licensing authority. As these regulations have been removed, the impact of the facility of transferability will help the exporters to source and sell their duty free materials and licences, on post-export basis, at their will and convenience, leading to commercial advantages.

Lifting of ban on export of basmati rice

1904. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER:

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration to lift ban on export of basmati rice; and

(b) if so, what is the decision of Government in this regard and the foreign currency likely to be earned by Government through export of basmati rice during the year 1992-93?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) There is no ban on the export of basmati rice. Rs. 630 crores are likely to be earned through export of basmati rice during the year 1992-93.

आठवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना के लिए निर्यात का लक्ष्य

1905. श्री राम नरेश यादव : वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) पिछले दो वर्षों के दौरान भारत के निर्यात में कितने प्रतिशत की वृद्धि हुई है तथा आठवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना के लिए क्या लक्ष्य निर्धारित किया गया है ; और